

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299529 TOSEC 320123

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM SEOUL DTD 09 DEC 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROKG STATEMENT ON ALLEGED BUGGING.

1. BY SEPTEL, WE WILL BE SENDING YOU TEXT OF LATEST STATEMENT ISSUED BY INFORMATION MINISTER KIM SANG-JIN IN HIS ROLE AS OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROKG. ESSENCE OF STATEMENT IS DEMAND FOR PUBLIC CLARIFICATION BY USG ON REPORTED BUGGING OF BLUE HOUSE. STATEMENT INCLUDES THREAT THAT IF EARLY CLARIFICATION NOT FORTHCOMING, ROKG WILL BE OBLIGED TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATION.

2. AS SOON AS I SAW AP PRESS REPORT OF STATEMENT, WHICH INTER ALIA INCLUDES KIM'S TERMING "UNCONVINCING" STATE DEPARTMENT DENIAL OF YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT, I CALLED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO HIS CHIEF SECRETARY, ASKING HIM TO PASS MESSAGE TO PRIMIN. I LODGED STRONG PROTEST ABOUT BOTH STATEMENTS IN BLUNT, UNVARNISHED TERMS. AFTER POINTING OUT INACCURACIES, PARTICULARLY IN WEDNESDAY'S STATEMENT, I TOLD CHIEF SECRETARY (CHAUNCEY LEE) THAT IF THERE IS ANY ASSUMPTION THAT WE CAN BE PRESSURED OR THREATENED BY SUCH STATEMENTS, ROKG HAD BETTER FORGET IT.

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3. I ALSO STRESSED THAT MUTUAL EFFORTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND

MYSELF DISCUSSED DECEMBER 8 MEETING TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF COUNSELOR KIM PROBLEM COULD WELL BE SERIOUSLY SET BACK AS A RESULT OF THESE STATEMENTS. I FURTHER ADDED THAT, IF ROKG SPOKESMAN ASSUMED THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ANY IMPRESSION ON AMERICAN PUBLIC HELPFUL TO KOREA BY THESE STATEMENTS, HE WAS SERIOUSLY MISTAKEN. TONE AND INTEMPERATENESS OF BOTH STATEMENTS WOULD NOT ONLY NOT BE HELPFUL WITHIN USG, BUT WOULD BE MOST UNHELPFUL WITH AMERICAN PUBLIC.

4. CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY PASS MY VIEWS TO PRIME MINISTER CHOE.
SNEIDER UNQTE ROBINSON

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